

CLAIMS

1. A *Lactobacillus casei* species having the properties described in (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) below:

(1) The species can be grown in the presence of any of one to four amino acids as a nitrogen source necessary for growth;

(2) When a growth-promoting culture medium is inoculated with the species and *Escherichia coli* in the same count and subjected to anaerobic mixed culturing at 37°C, the final count of lactobacilli is 50% or more of the coliform count;

(3) Upon cultivation in an appropriate culture medium, the final pH value is 4.0 or below, and the highest acidity is 1.5% or more;

(4) The species is resistant to 5% bile salts;

(5) The species produces an antibiotic.

2. A *Lactobacillus casei* species having at least one of the following properties in addition to the properties listed in Claim 1:

(a) Has resistance to widely-used antibiotics;

(b) Has amylolytic ability;

(c) Promotes the growth of chlorella;

(d) Grows at temperatures in the range of 5°C to 45°C;

(e) Grows at pH values in the range of pH 4.0 to pH 10.0;

(f) Can also grow under any oxygen pressure.

3. The *Lactobacillus casei* species according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* species is FERM BP-10059 (FERM P-19443).

4. A living body activating *lactobacillus* preparation

having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to any one of Claims 1 through 3 as a primary active ingredient.

5. A preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants having a *Lactobacillus casei* species according to any one of Claims 1 through 3 as a primary active ingredient.

6. The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5, wherein the preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5 contains an antibiotic.

7. The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 5 or 6, which is applied to an affected area in the treatment of periodontal disease after the affected area is disinfected with a bactericidal disinfectant.

8. The preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to Claim 7, wherein said bactericidal disinfectant is a bactericidal disinfectant containing 500 to 1,500 ppm of ferric ions, 500 to 2,000 ppm of L-ascorbic acid and 200 to 2,000 ppm of one or two of sorbic acid, benzoic acid and paraoxybenzoic acid ester as principal components.

9. The living body activating lactobacillus preparation or preventative or therapeutic agent against infections in humans, animals and plants according to any one of Claims 4 through 8, wherein said *Lactobacillus casei* species is FERM BP-10059 (FERM P-19443).